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1980 Breeding Marsh-Bird Survey

JOE SCHAUFENBUEL

St. Lucas

I was employed during June, 1980, by State Ecologist Dean Roosa to undertake a state-wide survey of Iowa's breeding marsh birds. Aided by Alan Branhagen, I was to sample plots in forty of Iowa's marshes. These forty marshes were randomly selected by computer from a master list which contained the location of most of Iowa's wetlands. All but four of these selected marshes were located north of I 80. That includes two in Fremont County and a pair in southeast Iowa. Otherwise, the count sites were scattered north of I 80, with, not unexpectedly, concentrations in the four "Great Lakes" counties (Clay, Dickinson, Emmet and Palo Alto) and also in north central Iowa.

Beginning June 1, we surveyed one to three marshes daily and had the job completed by June 30. During this month we encountered several very severe hailstorms. Though we could dodge these storms, we could not always avoid their destructive effects. For instance, we almost found it useless to survey the plots at Big Wall Lake after Wright County was hit June 8 by a fierce hail and windstorm that reduced the cattails there to a floating mat of vegetation resembling, and smelling, like corn silage! Precipitation received during these storms created beneficial water levels for breeding marsh birds. However, the accompanying hail and wind had a deleterious effect on nesting success, killing some adult birds outright, and destroying the nests of many others.

Wading chest-deep through decaying aquatic plants reeking of dizzying methane gas bubbling from the muck underfoot, while making my way through a jungle of cattails, may be an unattractive way to spend the month of June. Nevertheless, the cold, the wetness, and the annoying, clinging Duckweed, along with all the other discomforts, were well worth the insight gained into Iowa's marsh bird's breeding status and the summer occurrence of some unusual species. Wanting to share my experience I give the following accounts, based on observations made on the surveys and by general birding during this time:

American White Pelican. Six were observed June 5, at Bay's Branch, Guthrie County. Though it is not highly unusual for pelicans to linger in Iowa, their numbers and locations should be noted so any possible pattern of occurrence can be recognized. There is the possibility that there could be nesting, such as that which might have taken place at Spirit Lake in the summer of 1978.

Great Blue Heron. High water levels caused poor feeding for this bird in the marshes we covered and therefore few were observed. The places where it was most frequently observed were Union Slough and along the Mississippi River. Otherwise, only scattered singles or pairs were seen.

Great Egret. This large distinct egret was not observed in any of the marshes we visited. It was seen only by birding the Mississippi River at Lansing, where twenty-five were found June 27. I consider it an uncommon (or even rare) early summer bird in the state, found mostly along the Mississippi, especially along the borders of Allamakee and Clayton Counties, where it possibly breeds.

Black-crowned Night Heron. It was rather disheartening to find only twelve individual Night Herons in our statewide effort. In Iowa this is definitely a true Blue List species that shows a continued decline. Records: one at Barringer Slough, Clay County, June 2; one at Oppedahl Tract (north of Lost Island Lake), Palo Alto County, June 8; one at Jimmerson Slough (north of West Lake Okoboji), Dickinson Co., June 10; five at Oppedahl Tract, June 13; three at Big Wall Lake, June 14; and one at Eagle Lake, Hancock County, June 14.

Least Bittern. The Least Bittern made the best showing of all the Ardeidae. From my communications with other birders, I believe there is a consensus that

this species is declining. Yet, after finding twenty individuals and two nests in the course of my survey work, I must consider it to be doing well in the proper habitat. Records: one at Barringer Slough, June 10; one at Riverton, Fremont County, June 4; one at Sunken Island Lake, Pocahontas County, June 8; three at Jimmerson Slough, June 10; three at Christopherson Slough, Dickinson County, June 11; three at Otterville Marsh, Tama County, June 23; three at Muskrat Slough, Jones County, June 24; three at Goose Lake, Clinton County, June 25; and two at Sweet Marsh, Bremer County, June 26. The nests were found at Cunningham Slough and at Sweet Marsh.

American Bittern. Certainly disappointing was the near lack of American Bitterns in northwest Iowa's marshes. My only record was one calling bird at Oppedahl Tract, June 13.

Gadwall. As I expected, this duck can be found in most of the Northwest where wetlands occur. It doubtlessly breeds in small numbers there. The perimeter of its range, as shown by my records, is east to Cerro Gordo County then southwestward to Sac County, where six were found at Kiowa Marsh, June 7.

Green-winged Teal. The breeding status of this species in Iowa is vaguely known. My observations may add little to this, but are still of interest. Records: one at Barringer Slough, June 2; two at Five Island Lake, Palo Alto County, June 13; two at McIntosh Woods S.P., Cerro Gordo County, June 16; and three at Eagle Lake, Hancock Co., June 17.

Am. Black Duck. I was understandably excited when I observed an Am. Black Duck with three ducklings at Oppedahl Tract June 13; for this species is now known to breed in Iowa, and there are few summer records of this species. There is a strong chance that the duck I observed was mated with a Mallard or other dabbling duck, and was itself a hybrid. The fact remains, however, that it had the outward appearance of an Am. Black Duck escorting its young.

Northern Shoveler. Better than uncommon in the Northwest, especially numerous in the Great Lakes area, I found four shovelers as far south as Kiowa Marsh, Sac County, June 7. I also found one or two in most marshes in north central counties of Iowa, such as two at Myre Slough, Winnebago County, June 15. It is, no doubt, a breeding species in these areas.

Ring-necked Duck. Little is known about the summer status of this duck in Iowa, so any records should be reported: one male at Ruthven's sewage lagoon, June 1; and two males at Myre Slough, June 15.

Canvasback. Only a pair found on a flooded cornfield two miles east of Arnold's Park, Dickinson County, June 11.

Redhead. Woodard H. Brown, in his Annotated List, called this a common breeding bird, which he stated has declined and increased several times since 1900. I found it common only in the Great Lakes counties, and in north central Iowa. The furthest point south was one at Kiowa Marsh, June 8.

Hooded Merganser. It is not surprising that this species was found. Since the ample supply of Wood Duck houses lining the shores of our water-ways offer a nesting refuge for this species. Records: three females or juveniles at Sunken Island Lake, Pocahontas County, June 8; and a male at Myre Slough, June 15.

Ruddy Duck. Common in most marshes surveyed.

Swainson's Hawk. Its sporadic occurrence throughout the area I covered leads me, with past experience in northeast Iowa, to conclude it to be an uncommon breeding bird in much of the state, except in the southeast, extreme west, and in heavily cultivated areas of central Iowa. Records: four (two adults, 2 immatures) at Pilot Knob S.P., Hancock County, June 15; one adult at the intersection of I 35 and U.S. Highway 18, Cerro Gordo County, June 19; one at Monticello, Jones County, June 25; and one at Nashua, Chickasaw County, July 5. That is a total of

seven at four Iowa locations.

American Kestrel. Around 35 were observed during June, 1980, in Iowa, so it can still be considered common despite an apparent decline.

King Rail. None were found.

Virginia Rail. As anticipated, this species was found in marsh habitat in north-west Iowa. Unexpected, however, was its appearance in Allamakee County in marshes where it was not found by observers participating in the 1978 Allamakee County Foray. Records: one at Lost Island Lake's Huston Park, Palo Alto County, June 2; one, Lizard Lake, Pocahontas County, June 17; two at Eagle Lake, June 18; and five found in marshes near New Albin, June 27.

Sora. Fairly common in marshes in north Iowa, but not nearly as common as I had perceived it would be in Iowa's best wetland habitat. The Sora was most numerous at Union Slough NWR.

American Coot. Our most abundant large aquatic species nests throughout the state, with a particularly heavy concentration in the Great Lake counties.

Common Gallinule. Unlike the King Rail, this species can still be found in proper habitat in Iowa. Records: two at Barringer Slough, June 2; and three in a marsh south of New Albin.

Upland Sandpiper. My sentiment is that this species is not doing as badly in Iowa as Robert Arbib's Blue List suggests it is doing nationally. Though not trying to indicate that this species is without problems my records do show a viable population in the state, with high counts of five at Kalsow Prairie, Pocahontas County, June 6, and eight in Howard and Chicksaw Counties, June 30. The statewide total was twenty-seven at fifteen Iowa locations.

Wilson's Phalarope. We found it twice: once by Alan at Otterville Marsh, June 23, and another at New Albin, June 27. The sex of the first bird was not determined, the latter bird was a male, which scolded and hovered over the author while surveying a sweet flag marsh. Its actions may have meant it had a nest nearby.

Herring Gull. One was found, an immature bird, at McIntosh Woods S.P., June 16.

Ring-billed Gull. Concentrations of immature Ring-billeds were found at two locations: ten, three miles east of Arnold's Park, June 11; and fifty-five at Clear Lake June 16.

Forester's Tern. Scattered singles or pairs were found on most sizeable marshes, especially in the Great Lakes counties. The highest count was of twenty-five pairs at Jimmerson Slough, June 10. I doubt that many large colonies (twenty-five or more pairs) still remain in the state.

Common Tern. I spent forty-five minutes comparing this species with its virtual look-alike relative, the Forester's Tern, at Oppedahl Tract, June 13. Noting, under excellent viewing conditions by direct comparison, the distinctly darker primaries, different flight style and call notes, as well as the more reddish bill, I positively distinguished the Common Tern from the Forester's that the bird kept company with.

Chuck-will's-widow. My third encounter with this bird in Iowa occurred when three singing birds were heard at dusk June 3, north of Waubonsie S.P. Prior to this sighting I have found it at Shimek S.F. during the Lee County Foray and on May 27 near Winterset, Madison County, both in 1979. I suspect this is a regular species in southeast Iowa and in the Loess hills of extreme southwest Iowa.

Alder Flycatcher. Who will be first to discover the nest of an Alder Flycatcher in Iowa? My records support the belief that it is a summer resident in Iowa, yet still no evidence of nesting has been found. Records: three singing at Barringer Slough, June 2 (migrants?); and two singing birds at Sweet Marsh (a place they have been found in past summers), June 21.

Tennessee Warbler: A singing male at Dead Man's Lake Preserve in Pilot Knob S.P. on June 15 was unusual. And even more so when it is considered that a Northern Waterthrush and a Hooded Warbler were found in this same area at nearly the same time.

Yellow-throated Warbler. One found on June 5 at Ledges S.P. where it has been found in summer regularly since 1969.

Northern Waterthrush. A lone singing bird was fittingly enough discovered on a track of rare boreal sphagnum bog (Dead Man's Lake) in Pilot Knob S.P., June 15. A stretch of the imagination conjures up a small colony of breeding Northern Waterthrush inhabiting this bog, which is reminiscent of this species more northern home. But more likely, it was a vagrant individual spending the summer south of its normal breeding range.

Louisiana Waterthrush. Four were seen, along with two nest discoveries, both with four eggs, found by Alan, June 13, at Woodman Hollow State Preserve.

Hooded Warbler. A singing bird was heard at dusk while I was taking in the view from the Pilot Knob look-out tower, June 16.

That concludes my field work from the summer of 1980. Hopefully, this summary has been informative; certainly accumulating the data was an educational experience for me.

FIELD REPORTS



Fall 1981

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WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

Comments were as follows. Temperature and rainfall were fairly normal at Iowa City except for a cold snap on 15-24 Oct. (JPS). Rain kept water levels high at Coralville Res., so there were very few shorebirds (TK). The raising of water levels at Red Rock Res. due to early duck hunting ruined all shorebird habitat in early Sep. but the addition of 1-2 feet of water made for high numbers of waders (RT). In Sioux Co., Aug. was wet with average temperatures, Sep. mostly dry and warm with a high of 92 degrees on Sep. 29, Oct. dry and normal with snow on Oct. 24, and Nov. dry and mild early with major snow storms on 18-19 and 30 Nov. (JV). In southwest Iowa, conditions remained dry until mid Jul., but the rains, which petered out in mid-Aug., were not enough to fill Forney L., Willow S., or farm ponds. Water was pumped into Forney L. (BWi).

GENERAL TRENDS

There was little mention of concentrations of waterfowl except for rafts of diving ducks on the Mississippi R. Oldsquaws were more in evidence than usual. Several sightings of N. Goshawks suggest that this is an invasion winter. Shorebirding was poor this year due to high and low water levels. Warblers were reported in good numbers and variety with many early and late dates. Prominent winter birds included Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins, and, to a lesser extent, Red Crossbills.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Casual species recorded included *Plegadis* sp., Mute Swan, Ross' Goose, Prairie Falcon, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Varied Thrush. Accidentals were Black Rail, Thayer's Gull, Burrowing Owl, and Western Tanager. Two exotics reported were a Bar-headed Goose at Rice L., Winnebago Co. (WMH,MAH), and two Ruddy Shelducks in Wayne Co. (CS).

LOONS, THROUGH DUCKS

Common Loon: One summered from 4 Jul. on at Mormon Trail L., Adair Co. (Bruce Drey fide JD). Early and late dates for migrants were 20 Oct. at L. Manawa (TB et al) and 28 Nov. at Coralville Res. (JPS) and Keokuk (PCP).

Horned Grebe: 2 at Little Clear L., Pocahontas Co., on 9 Sep. (MB) represent the second earliest date on record. The latest were 6 at Saylorville Res. on 21 Nov. (JR) and 1 at L. Macbride on 16 Nov. (TK,CB,MN).

Eared Grebe: 1 at Pickeral L., Pocahontas Co., on 29 Aug. (RC) was the third earliest fall record. Others were 1 at Whitten Lagoon in s.e. Hardin Co. on 15, 20 Sep. (BPr et al) and 10 at L. Manawa on 20 Oct. (TB et al).

Western Grebe: There was one recorded from Bettendorf on 13 Aug. (Bob Dau fide PCP).

American White Pelican: Flocks were noted in early to mid Sep.: 50 at Hamburg on 8 Sep. (IG), 150 in Emmet Co. on 11 Sep. (DHen), and 260 at Red Rock L. on 19 Sep. (JR,RL,GB). A second latest record was 1 at DeSoto NWR on 14 Nov. (JR).

Double-crested Cormorant: Peak numbers were 125 counted at Red Rock L. on 1 Oct. (RT) and 95 at DeSoto NWR on 10 Oct. (JR). August records were 1 on 1, 2 Aug. at Sabula (JSb), 1 at DeSoto NWR on 5 Aug. (JR) and 16 Aug. (RL), and 1 on 22 Aug. at Bay's Branch (RL). September records were 19 Sep. (25 at Coralville Res., TK, and 21 at Red Rock L., JR, RL) and 29 Sep. (40 at L. Manawa, BWi). There were many Oct. reports, the peak month for migration. November reports were 1-6 at Davenport from 4-26 Nov. (PCP), 2 at Lock 9 on 14 Nov. (DK,RMy,FM), 1 at Saylorville on 22 Nov. (JR), and 1 at Centerville on 29 Nov. (WMH,MAH).

Great Blue Heron: 195 were counted at Red Rock L. on 11 Sep. (RT). Last dates were 29 Nov. at Lock 9 (JSb,JR) and 30 Nov. in Pocahontas Co. (RC).

Green Heron: 4 were at Ledges SP on 26 Sep (JR).

Little Blue Heron: There were no summer or fall reports this year.

Cattle Egret: 1 was seen in Emmet Co. on 13 Sep. (DHen).

Great Egret: 85 were counted at Red Rock L. on 11 Sep. (RT) and 80 were there on 19 Sep. (RL,GB,JR).

Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 ad. and 3 imm. were at Red Rock L. on 19 Sep. (JR).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 9 were at Center L., Dickinson Co., on 4 Aug. (DHa, LF, LH).

Least Bittern: Elwood Martin of Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Md., reported 1 on a record late date of 12 Nov. at Goose L., Greene Co. (fide PCP).

American Bittern: 9 were at Big M. on 26 Sep. (RMy, FM, RHa).

***Plegadis* sp.:** (There were two documented reports of *Plegadis* species from Eldridge, Scott Co., on 2 Sep. (+LB (a Glossy, ed.) and Runnells Game Area on 11 Sep. (+JSin). These will be referred to the Records Committee for evaluation of species. The Records Committee has recently reviewed all previous records of *Plegadis* species for Iowa. Only three were judged to be definitely White-faced and none definitely Glossy. Others were considered *Plegadis* sp.

Mute Swan: One was seen on a gravel pit in n.w. Marshall Co. from 11-25 Sep. (+BPr, m. ob.). It was thought to be wild because it was not always present.

- Whistling Swan:** 7 (3 ad., 4 imm.) were at Saylorville Res. on 22 Nov. (JR) and up to 84 were at Lock 9 from 14 to 29 Nov. (m. ob.).
- Snow Goose:** 6 were at Cone M. on 4 Oct. (JPS) and 140,000 were at DeSoto NWR on 14 Nov. (JR).
- Ross' Goose:** 2 to 7 including several immatures were observed at DeSoto NWR on 31 Oct. and 1, 14, 15 Nov. (+JR).
- American Black Duck:** 1-2 were at DeSoto NWR on 24 Oct. (BWi), 31 Oct. (JR), and 11 Nov. (TB, SK, BPa); 1 was at Pickeral L., Pocahontas Co., on 7 Nov. (RC).
- Canvasback:** 3000-5000 were at the Keokuk pool on 25 Oct. (TK, MN) and 28 Nov. (PCP, MLP) and 450 were at Lock 9 on 29 Nov. (JSb, JR).
- Ring-necked Duck:** 3000 were at Lock 9 in n.e. Iowa on 28 Nov. (TK) while only 50 were at the Keokuk pool in s.e. Iowa on the same day (PCP, MLP).
- Greater Scaup:** 1 was identified by long white wing stripe on 20 Oct. at L. Manawa (+BJR, TB, SK, BPa).
- Oldsquaw:** Sightings were from five locations: 1-2 at Saylorville Res. on 14, 22 Nov. (+JSb, JR), 3 at Clear L. on 22 Nov. (Dale Hamburg fide JD), 1 at Lock 9 on 25 Nov. (DK, JSb), 3 at Red Rock L. on 27 Nov. (RT, GB), and 1 shot at Pickeral L., Pocahontas Co., on 28 Nov. (Ron Reese, Wallace Jardine fide RC).
- White-winged Scoter:** 4 were seen on the Mississippi R. e. of Ft. Madison on 25 Oct. (+TK, MN). Another report was from Maffit Res., Dallas Co., on 1 Nov. (Gene Armstrong fide HZ).
- Common Goldeneye:** 1 was early on 8 Oct. at Lock 9 (JSb, DK).
- Hooded Merganser:** 17 were at Saylorville Res. on 21 Nov. (JR) and 10 were at Lock 9 on 28 Nov. (TK).
- Common Merganser:** 150 were at Saylorville Res. on 21 Nov. (JR).
- Ruddy Duck:** 50 were at Keokuk pool on 28 Nov. (PCP, MLP).

VULTURES THROUGH TURKEY

- Osprey:** The earliest date was 20 Aug. at St. Lucas (JSb) and the latest 21 Nov. at DeSoto NWR (BWi).
- Bald Eagle:** The earliest date was for an imm. on 26 Sep. at Keosauqua (JPS).
- Northern Harrier:** 3, including 1 probable imm., were at Hayden Pr. on Aug. 4 near the site where they nested this summer (RPB, CAB). Another was in Winnebago Co. on 10 Aug. (JSb).
- Goshawk:** Four sightings were well documented: a bird that died was seen on 5, 7 Nov. at Ames (+JR, JSb), an ad. on 15 Nov. at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City (+MN, +RHo, +TK), an ad. on 21 Nov. at Seven Bridges SP, Bremer Co. (+RMy, +FM), and an imm. on 21 Nov. at Big Creek L., Polk Co. (+JR, +JSb, +HZ). Another undocumented report was from Volga L. on 28 Nov. (JSb, JR). Mike Newlon pointed out a useful field mark that is not emphasized in the field guides: the dark primaries contrast with the lighter blue-gray wing coverts.
- Northern Goshawk:** Four sightings were well documented: a bird that died was seen on 5, 7 Nov. at Ames (+JR, JSb), and ad. on 15 Nov. at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City (+MN, +RHp, +TK), an ad. on 21 Nov. at Seven Bridges SP, Bremer Co. (+RMy, +RM), and an imm. on 21 Nov. at Big Creek L., Polk Co. (+JR, +JSb, +HZ). Another undocumented report was from Volga L. on 28 Nov. (JSb, JR). Mike Newlon pointed out a useful field mark that is not emphasized in the field guides: the dark primaries contrast with the lighter blue-gray wing coverts.
- Cooper's Hawk:** Reports, unsupported by details, were from 7 Sep. at Ames (JD, SD, MD), 11 Sep. at Iowa City (RHo), 27 Sep. at Big Creek L. (JR, JSb) and Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JPS), and 25 Oct. at Kent P., Johnson Co. (RHo).

Red-tailed Hawk: Krider's Redtails were reported from Sioux Co. on 12 Sep (JV), Cherokee Co. on 18 Sep. (MB), and Emmet Co. on 26 Sep. (DHen). A Harlan's Hawk was reported from Iowa City on 16 Nov. (+MN).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 was at Yellow River F. on 3 Oct. (DK).

Swainson's Hawk: There were six sightings: 3 Aug. at Readlyn, Bremer Co. (DK), 8 Aug. at Calmar, Winneshiek Co. (JSb), 17 Aug. in O'Brien Co. (Ron Harms fide JC), 18 Sep. in Mills Co. (BWi), 10 Oct. at DeSoto NWR (JR, JSb), and 17 Oct. in Cass Co. (TB).

Golden Eagle: Sightings were all from Allamakee Co. on 14, 25, 29 Nov. (+RMy, +FM, m. ob.).

Prairie Falcon: There were several well documented sightings near DeSoto NWR on 10 Oct. (+JR, +JSb), 5 Nov. (+TB, BPa, SK), and 8 Nov (+EK). Another was documented in n. w. Mills Co. on 20 Oct. (+BPa, SK, TB). One was reported, with black axillaries noted, from Webster Co. on 12 Nov. (Elwood Martin fide PCP).

Merlin: 1 was at Red Rock L. on 9 Oct. (+RT).

Common Bobwhite: Many adults with young were noted in w. and central Sioux Co. in late Aug. (JV) indicating good recovery in this northern part of the species range.

Gray Partridge: 20 were noted at Little Wall L., Hamilton Co. on 15 Nov. (JSb).

Wild Turkey: 3 were in Guthrie Co. on 28 Nov. (RC).

CRANES THROUGH TERNS

Black Rail: 1 reported on 29 Aug. at Cone M. (+TK, IBL 51:95) will be referred to the Records Committee.

Semipalmated Plover: 1 was late at Prairie Rose SP, Shelby Co. on 11 Oct. (JR, JSb).

Killdeer: 156 were noted in Cherokee Co. on 15 Oct. (MB).

Lesser Golden Plover: 1 was at Eldridge, Scott Co., on 5 Sep. (PCP, RSi), 1 at Little Wall L. on 20 Sep (JR, JSb), 20 in Pocahontas Co. on 4 Oct. (RC), and 1 w. of Waterloo on 7 Nov. (RMy, FM).

Black-bellied Plover: 5 were at Red Rock L. on 19 Sep. (JR).

Upland Sandpiper: 3 were in Story Co. on 1 Aug. (HZ) and 1 was at St. Lucas on 13 Oct. (JSb), the second latest date on record.

Greater Yellowlegs: Several late records were noted: 12 Nov. in Keokuk Co. (DK), 8 Nov. at Coralville Res. (FM), and 7 Nov. w. of Waterloo (RMy, FM) and in Story Co. (JR, JSb).

Solitary Sandpiper: There were two record late dates: 11 Oct. at Ames (JR, JSb) and 26 Sep. at Lost Island L., Clay Co. (RC).

Spotted Sandpiper: 1 was late at Ledges SP on 26 Sep (JR, JSb).

Northern Phalarope: 2 were at Silver L., Osceola Co., on 21 Aug. (BWi) and 2 were in s. e. Hardin Co. on 15-29 Sep. (BPr et al).

American Woodcock: Reports were from Big Sioux R., w. Lyon Co. (DHa) and Montezuma (DK), both on 23 Oct.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 in alternate plumage was at Coralville Res. on 22 Aug. and 2 juveniles were n. of Davenport on 6 Sep. (TK).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 3 were identified by call n. of Davenport on 5 Sep (PCP, RSi). Reporters are urged to give details of identification for all dowitchers observed or heard. I will list here all those that appear adequately identified.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 was late on 11 Oct. at Prairie Rose SP, Shelby Co. (JR, JSb).

Western Sandpiper: Details were provided for 1 at Coralville Res. on 22 Aug. (TK) and 3 at Ames on 6 Sep. (JSb); 3 were listed at Little Wall L. on 20 Sep (JR,

JSb).

Least Sandpiper: 1 w. of Waterloo on 7 Nov. (RMy, FM) is the second latest date on record.

Baird's Sandpiper: 1-3 were in Winneshiek Co. on 16, 18 Aug. (JSb) and 2 were at Prairie Rose SP, Shelby Co., on 11 Oct. (JR, JSb).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 on 15 Nov. w. of Waterloo (FM, RHa) is the third latest date on record.

Ring-billed Gull: 5 were at Credit I. on 8 Aug. (PCP). Large concentrations were on the Iowa reservoirs: 3,000 at Red Rock L. on 7 Nov. (RT), 400 at Coralville Res. on 7 Nov. (TK), and 190 at Saylorville Res. on 21 Nov. (JR, JSb).

Franklin's Gull: 393 were counted at Red Rock L. on 8 Oct. (RT).

Bonaparte's Gull: These gulls seem to associate with the large concentrations of Ring-bills and are remaining into late Nov. There were 6 at DeSoto NWR on 5 Nov. (TB, SK, BPa), 25 at L. Macbride on 8 Nov. (TK, CB, MN), 40 at Saylorville Res. on 21 Nov. (JR, JSb), and 8 at Red Rock L. on 27 Nov. (RT, GB), the latter tying the record late date.

Common Tern: Reports without details of identification were from DeSoto NWR on 5 Aug. (RP et al) and Rathbun L. on 13 Sep. (FM).

Little Tern: Reports were from DeSoto NWR and north of there on 5 Aug. (RP, MS, JB, BWa) and 8 Aug. (Rick Sojda, letter). The group from Shenandoah had the unusual luxury of seeing four species of terns together on 5 Aug.: Forster's, Common, Little, and Black.

Caspian Tern: There were many reported across the state from 5 Sep. at Bettendorf (PCP, RSi) to 3 Oct. at Coralville Res. (TK) with a peak of 60 at Coralville Res. on 19 Sep. (TK, CB).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: It was unusual to have anything to say about this species. A nest was noted at Sheeder Pr., Guthrie Co., on 13 Sep. (RL) and 2 young fledged from a nest in Mills Co. after 8 Sep. (BWi). A flock of 200 seemed unusual at Cone M. on 29 Aug. (TK).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: A fledgling was seen at Cone M. on 6 Sep. (RHo) and 4 young were in a nest on 30 Aug. in Mills Co. (BWi). Late dates were 28 Oct. at Pleasantville (RT), 26 Oct. at Des Moines (RL, CL), and 22 Sep. in Story Co. (JR).

Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 was at Coralville Res. on 10 Oct. (MN, m. ob.).

Snowy Owl: A photo of an injured bird at Little Clear L. on 28 Nov. (Ron Harms) was received. Another was reported from Wayne Co. on 30 Oct. (CS).

Burrowing Owl: One s. of Roland, Story Co., from 28 Aug. to 16 Sep. (+HZ, +RMy, +FM) was seen by many. (Photo by PCP on p. 124 and note by HZ).

Long-eared Owl: There were five reports from 5 to 28 Nov.

Short-eared Owl: A probable imm. was seen at Hayden Pr. on 4 Aug. where adults had been present all spring and summer (RPB, CAB). One was at Centerville on 24 Oct. (WMH, MAH).

Saw-whet Owl: Reports were from Cedar Falls on 15 Nov. (FM, RHa) and Big Creek L. on 21 Nov. (JR, JSb, HZ).

Common Nighthawk: 54 were at Ames on 24 Sep. and 1 on 26 Sep. (JR).

Chimney Swift: 5 were at Ames on 13 Oct. (JR) and 1 at Council Bluffs on 12 Oct. (BWi).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Only three reports from 29 Aug. to 22 Sep. A nest with incubating female was found at St. Lucas on 28 May 1979 (JSb). Very few nests of this species have been found in Iowa.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 was late on 22 Nov. in Emmet Co. (DHen).



Say's Phoebe in Plymouth Co. on 29 June 1981.

Photo by T. H. Kent

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH STARLING

Eastern Kingbird: 64 were noted in Cherokee Co. on 27 Aug. (MB).

Western Kingbird: 15 were seen in Fremont Co. on 5 Aug. (RP, MS) and 1 was at Cherokee on 21 Aug. (MB).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: One was seen at Cone M. on 2 Aug. (+TD).

Great Crested Flycatcher: 1 was in Mills Co. on 20 Sep. (BWi).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 5 Aug. was the earliest date on record at Pine Hill Cem., Davenport PCP). A total of 61 were banded from 5 Aug. to 3 Sep. with a peak of 12 on 30 Aug. (PCP). One was seen and heard at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City, on 19 Sep. (+TK, CB).

Acadian Flycatcher: Individuals were banded and measured on 23, 25 Aug. at Pine Hill Cem., Davenport (PCP).

Eastern Pewee: 2 were at Ames on 20 Sep. (JR, JSb) and 1 was at Mills Co. on 23 Sep. (BWi).

Barn Swallow: 30 were at DeSoto NWR on 17 Oct. (JR) and 2 in Mills Co. on 20 Oct. (BWi).

- Purple Martin:** The last date in n. e. Polk Co. was 27 Aug. (DMos).
- Blue Jay:** Migration was noted from 8 Sep. to 10 Oct. with peak of 140 on 26 Sep. in Mills Co. (BWi).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** This was a prominent year for Red-breasted Nuthatches with some seen by most observers. The earliest dates were 19 Aug. at St. Lucas (JSb), 22 Aug. at Pine Hill Cem., Davenport (PCP), and 3 Sep. at Iowa City (JF).
- House Wren:** A late one was singing at DeSoto NWR on 10 Oct. (JR, JSb).
- Winter Wren:** There were reports from seven areas from 30 Sep. to 15 Nov.
- Bewick's Wren:** 1 was at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City, on 27 Sep. near the area of nesting this spring (TK).
- Carolina Wren:** The first report in two years was from Des Moines (R. Mooney fide HZ).
- Marsh Wren:** There were five reports including a record late date: 2 on 29 Aug. at Cone M. (TK), 10 on 20 Sep. at Larson M., Story Co. (JR, JSb), 1 on 10 Oct. at DeSoto NWR (JR, JSb), 2 on 21 Nov. at Rush L., Palo Alto Co. (RC), and 1 on 28 Nov. at Anderson L., Hamilton Co. (HZ).
- Sedge Wren:** There were seven reports with many at DeSoto NWR (15 on 5 Aug., RP et al, and 23 on 16 Aug., RL,CL) and a late date of 2 Oct. at the same location (JR, JSb).
- Northern Mockingbird:** 1 on 20 Nov. was said to be a first record for Pocahontas Co. (Ron Harms fide RC).
- Gray Catbird:** Late dates were 1 at Pleasantville on 13 Nov. (RT) and 2 at Sweet M. on 28 Nov. (JR, JSb). The last one was seen in Mills Co. on 26 Sep. (BWi).
- Brown Thrasher:** 1 was late in n. e. Polk Co. on 28 Nov. (DMos).
- American Robin:** 135 were noted in Mills Co. on 5 Sep. (BWi) and large migrations were noted on 26 Oct. at Council Bluffs (CSc) and Jackson Co. (TK).
- Varied Thrush:** One appeared at Storm L. on 20 Nov. (+VC).
- Hermit Thrush:** Singles were seen at Sunken Grove on 22 Oct. (MB) and Yellow River F. on 14 Nov. (FM, RMy, DK).
- Veery:** 9 were banded at Pine Hill Cem., Davenport, from 30 Aug. to 3 Sep. (PCP) and 1 was seen there on 6 Sep. (TK).
- Eastern Bluebird:** A nest was destroyed on 8 Aug. in Mills Co. (BWi).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 2 were seen at Waubonsie SP on 3, 5 Aug. (RP, et al), and 2 at Wildcat Den on 11 Aug. (PCP,RE).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Good numbers were noted by several observers with waves on 17 Oct. and 3 Nov. at Hamburg (IG) and 27 at Manti Woods, Fremont Co., on 10 Oct. (RP, MS).
- Water Pipit:** A record early date was 19 Aug. in n. w. Johnson Co. (TK, CB). A large flock of 95 were at DeSoto NWR on 10 Oct. (JR, JSb). Other reports were 4 at Union L., Hardin Co., on 22 Sep. (BPr), 1 at Ames on 24 Oct. (JSb), and 8 at Mark Sand Pr. on 31 Oct. (RMy).
- Northern Shrike:** An imm. was at Big Creek, Polk Co. on 21 Nov. (+JR, JSb, HZ). Four were seen in Fayette and Allamakee Cos. on 28, 29 Nov. (JSb, JR).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** Reports were from the following counties: Johnson on 9 Sep. (last date near nesting site, RHo) and 21 Nov. (TK), Pocahontas on 15 Aug. (RC), Story on 12 Sep., 4 Oct. 11 Nov. (PM,HZ), Jasper on 19 Sep. (JR), and Decatur and Wayne on 28 Nov. (FM). Please give identifying marks observed for all winter shrikes so that we can begin to evaluate the distribution of the two species in Iowa in winter.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

- Bell's Vireo:** 1 was banded at Pine Hill Cem. on 2 Sep. (PCP).

- Yellow-throated Vireo:** 1 was seen at Hickory Hill P. on 20 Sep. (TK, CB).
- Solitary Vireo:** 9 were at Ames on 20 Sep. (JR, JSb). October dates were 10 Oct. at Pilot Creek, Pocahontas Co. (RC) and at Coralville Res. (MN) and 17 Oct. in Cass Co. (TB) and at Pleasantville (RT).
- Red-eyed Vireo:** A second latest record date was 4 Nov. at Ames (+JR).
- Philadelphia Vireo:** 6 were at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City, on 13 Sep (TK) and 2 were at Davenport on 2 Oct. (PCP).
- Black-and-white Warbler:** One was early at L. Meyer, Winneshiek Co., on 9 Aug. (JSb) and another in Sioux Co. on 16 Aug. (JV). A whopping 54 were at Rush L., Palo Alto Co. on 29 Aug. (RC).
- Blue-winged Warbler:** 1 was at Big M. on the record late date of 26 Sep. (FM). Others were at Davenport on 16, 30 Aug. and 4 Sep. (PCP,MLP).
- Tennessee Warbler:** Joe Schaufenbuel is emphatic about his record early date for this species: 9 Aug. at St. Lucas in 1979 and 9 Aug. at Meyer L., Winneshiek Co., in 1980 and 1981.
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** 29 Nov. at Credit I. is a record late date (JPS, JKS). Petersen recorded early and late dates of 13 Sep. and 28 Oct. at Davenport.
- Nashville Warbler:** Early dates were 11 Aug. at St. Lucas (JSb) and 16 Aug. at Des Moines (banded, RL,CL).
- Northern Parula Warbler:** There were several sightings of this uncommon fall warbler: 5-22 Sep. at Davenport (PCP,MLP), 13 Sep. at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JPS), 19 Sep at George Wyth SP (RMy, FM), 26 Sep. at Big M. (FM), and 30 Sep. at Ames (JR).
- Magnolia Warbler:** Singles on 10 Oct. were noted at George Wyth SP (RMy) and at Keosauqua (JPS).
- Cape May Warbler:** Two reports: 15 Sep. at Davenport (PCP) and 10 Oct. at Keosauqua (JPS).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Two reports: 16 Sep. at Davenport (PCP) and 26 Sep. at Waterloo (RMy, FM, RH).
- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** An Audubon's Warbler was reported at Iowa City on 27 Oct. (+MN).
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** 1 was late at Ames on 28 Oct. (JR).
- Cerulean Warbler:** 1 was at Wildcat Den on 11 Aug. (PCP,RE).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** 1 was early at Pine Hill Cem. on 17 Aug. (PCP) and late reports were 17 Oct. at Keosauqua (JPS) and 10 Oct. in Dickinson Co. (DH).
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** The bird observed all spring and summer n. of Keosauqua was last seen on 17 Aug. (JPS). A very unusual late fall sighting was well documented at Cedar Rapids on 4 Nov. (+R & KG).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 1 was early at Pine Hill Cem. on 12 Aug. (PCP).
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** 1 at Keosauqua on 17 Aug. (JPS) matches the record early date.
- Blackpoll Warbler:** A record late date was 12 Oct. at Davenport (PCP, MLP).
- Pine Warbler:** There were several reports of this rare species: 2 Sep. at Waterloo (RMy), 20 Sep. at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City (TK, CB), 26 Sep. at Waterloo (FM), and 4 Oct. at Cone M. (JPS).
- Northern Waterthrush:** 1 was at Little Clear L. on 11 Aug. (RC).
- Connecticut Warbler:** 1 was at Bradgate A., Humboldt Co., on 30 Aug. (RC).
- Mourning Warbler:** Reports were from Pine Hill Cem. on 16 Aug. (PCP), 8 Sep. at Ames (JR), and 26 Sep. at Waterloo (FM).
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** 1 was banded at Pine Hill Cem. on 27 Aug. (PCP).
- Wilson's Warbler:** 1 at Waterloo on 8 Aug. (RMy) ties the record early date. Other early birds were banded at Davenport on 16 Aug. (PCP) and at Des Moines on

18 Aug. (RL, CL).

Canada Warbler: 14 were banded at Pine Hill Cem. with a record early date of 12 Aug. (PCP). Another was early at Laurens on 14 Aug. (Ron Harms fide RC).

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH BUNTINGS

Bobolink: 19 were seen in Story Co. on 20 Sep. and 2 at Little Wall L. on 26 Sep. (JR, JSb).

Orchard Oriole: 5 were near Wildcat Den SP on 11 Aug. (PCP, RE). The last date in Mills Co. was 29 Aug. (BWi).

Western Tanager: A tanager with wing bars, thought to be an immature male Western Tanager, was carefully described on 18 Oct. at Waterloo (+RMy, +FM). This will be referred to the Records Committee.

Scarlet Tanager: Fall records were 29 Aug. at Saylorville Res. (RL, CL), 26 Sep. in Mills Co. (BWi), and 30 Sep. at Davenport (PCP).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 2 were at Ledges SP on 26 Sep. (JR, JSb).

Blue Grosbeak: 2 were at Forney L. on 5 Aug. (RP et al), 1 was in Cherokee Co. on 21 Aug. (MB), and several were in w. Sioux Co. on 16-20 Aug. (JV).

Indigo Bunting: 3 were at Saylorville on 27 Sep. (JR, JSb).

Dickcissel: Late dates were 12 Oct. in Story Co. (PM, HZ, JR) and 10 Oct. in Mills Co. (BWi).

Evening Grosbeak: There were reports from six locations, all from Nov. except for 1 at Shenandoah on 17 Sep. (MBV fide RP).

Purple Finch: Early dates were 1 Sep. Pinetail, banded (PCP), 9 Sep. in n.e. Polk Co. (DMos) and 12 Sep. at Iowa City (RHo). There were few other reports.

Common Redpoll: Three reports: 1 on 15 Oct. at Rush L. (MB), 4 on 7 Nov. in Story Co. (JR, JSb), and 10 on 25 Nov. in Allamakee Co. (DK, JSb).

Pine Siskin: There were numerous reports, the earliest on 7 Oct. in Mills Co. (BWi) and the largest number of 100 at Fairmont Cem., Davenport on 3 Nov. (PCP).

American Goldfinch: Nest building was noted on 1 Sep. and young were ready to fledge on 29 Sep. in Marshall Co. (BPr).

Red Crossbill: There were reports from six locations of 1 to 23 birds, all in Nov. except for 23 at Shenandoah on 24 Oct. (RP, MS).

White-winged Crossbill: 5 were near New Albin, Allamakee Co., on 25 Nov. (DK, JSb).

Rufous-sided Towhee: 2 of the spotted type were at DeSoto NWR on 10 Oct. (JR, JSb).

Savannah Sparrow: 11 were at Pierce Creek Co. P. on 25 Oct. (RP, BWa).

Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 was seen in Pocahontas Co. on 4 Oct. (RC).

LeConte's Sparrow: There were seven Oct. records and one for 20 Sep. in Story Co. (JR, JSb).

Northern Junco: Early date was 27 Sep. at Saylorville Res. (JR, JSb) and Hamburg (IG).

Chipping Sparrow: 1 was at Ames on 5 Nov. (JR).

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 was singing in Sioux Co. on 16 Oct. (JV).

Field Sparrow: A nest with eggs was found at Sheeder Pri., Guthrie Co. on 22 Aug. (RL, CL).

Harris' Sparrow: The early date was 7 Oct. in n. e. Polk Co. (DMos) and 60 were at Cherokee on 11 Oct. (RC).

Lapland Longspur: In marked contrast to last year, many large flocks were reported: 300 on 7 Nov. near Grundy Center, 400 on 7 Nov. in Story Co. (JR, JSb), 400 on 8 Nov. near Waterloo (FM, RHa), 200 on 14 Nov. in Story Co. (HZ), 2,000 on 15 Nov. near Cedar Falls (FM, RHa), 100 on 16 Nov. in Palo Alto Co. (DHen), 400 on 19 Nov. near Cherokee (MB), and 250 on 21 Nov. near Lone Tree,

Johnson Co. (TK).

Snow Bunting: There were reports from seven locations, all in Nov., with the earliest on 8 Nov. in Benton Co. (FM) and the highest count of 210 in Fayette Co. on 28 Nov. (JSb, JB).

+ equals documented

CONTRIBUTORS

Russell P. Baldner, Calmar; Lewis Blevins, Davenport; Tanya Bray, Omaha, Neb.; Marion Brewer, Cherokee; Virginia Crocker, Storm Lake; Raymond Cummins, Pocahontas; James Dinsmore, Ames; Timothy Dwyer, Muscatine; James Fuller, Iowa City; Ione Getscher, Hamburg; Ruth and Karl Goellner, Cedar Rapids; Ronald Harms, Laurens; Douglas Harr, Larchwood; Dennis Henrickson, Estherville; W. M. Heusinkveld, Centerville; Rick Hollis, Iowa City; Thomas Kent, Iowa City; Erwin Klaas, Ames; Darwin Koenig, Montezuma; Rene Laubach, Des Moines; Paul Martsching, Ames; Francis L. Moore, Waterloo; Dean Mosman, Elkhart; Robert K. Myers, Waterloo; Michael Newlon, Iowa City; Peter C. Petersen, Davenport; Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb; John Robinson, Ames; James P. Sandrock, Iowa City; Joe Schaufenbuel, St. Lucas; Conrad F. Schlemmer, Council Bluffs; Charlotte Scott, Seymour; James Sinclair, Indianola; Robert Thornburg, Pleasantville; John Van Dyk, Sioux Center; Barbara Wilson, Hastings; Hank Zaletel, Ames.

OTHER OBSERVERS

Gene Armstrong (HZ), Carolyn A. Baldner (RPB), Carl Bendorf (TK), Gladys Black (RT), Jean Braley (RP), Mark Dinsmore (JD), Steve Dinsmore (JD), Richard Erickson (PCP), LaVonne Foote (DHa), Phyllis Harris (BPr), Russell Hays (FM,RMy), Linda Hinshaw (DHa), Sandra Kovanda (TB), Wally Jardine (RC), Christyma Laubach (RL), Richard Mooney (HZ), Ron Nelson (BPr), Babs Padelford (TB), Mary Lou Petersen (PCP), Mark Porescholdt (BPr), Ron Reese (RC), B. J. Rose (TB), Johanna K. Sandrock (JPS), Garnita Seward (BPr), Ross Silcock (PCP), Ramona Sommerlot (BPr), Marie Spears (RP), Tom Staudt (TK), Mary Beth Vaughn (RP), Loraine Wallace (DHa), Betty Walters (RP), Linda Zaletel (HZ).

COMMENTS

I want to thank all contributors for their high quality reports which were all received on time. The fall season is particularly difficult because it covers four months and ends at a busy time of the year. I am especially pleased that contributors followed the guidelines I outlined in the last issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. Any one desiring report or documentation forms can write to me (a dollar's worth of stamps would be helpful to cover costs).

I need help with the weather section of the field report. Barb Wilson notes my bias to eastern Iowa. In this report I paraphrased all of the comments received on weather and habitat. Unless more contributors mention weather, this is not very representative. Alternately, one could summarize official weather data by month. However, I do not have ready access to this type of information. Does anyone know of an easily available summary of monthly data for the state that would be available soon enough to cover the last month of the reporting period? Or better yet, would anyone like to provide a weather summary for the field reports? I need your suggestions and guidance.

You will note that I have used 'et al' after contributors in this report when there were four or more observers, however, I retained all of the initials if the sightings were particularly noteworthy. Observers who birded with the contributor are listed under observers, but, in most cases, birders who reported to the contributor are listed in the text. I have done this because those reporting to a

contributor usually appear only once, while those birding with a contributor often appear many times. There are still some occasions when I can not tell whether an observer was birding with a contributor or reported to the contributor.

There are some regular species for which identifying details should be briefly noted. These include birds that are difficult to identify such as Cooper's Hawk, dowitchers, Western Sandpiper, Common Tern, winter shrikes, and others.

GENERAL NOTES



Second Burrowing Owl of the year in Story County — My wife and I had just



Burrowing Owl near Roland, Ia., Sept. 11, 1981

Photo by Peter C. Petersen

returned from the spring IOU meeting on August 30th when we received a call from Paul Rod of Ames. He stated that farmers had seen a burrowing owl 1½ miles south of Roland on R-77 since August 28th. The following morning I saw the bird for the first time. On my fifth sighting, I saw the bird emerge from his burrow in the highway right of way embankment. The photographs taken by Peter C. Petersen on September 11. The bird was last seen on September 16. HANK ZALETEL, 715 West St., Colo, Iowa 50056.

Northern Goshawk in Story County — On November 5, 1981, while looking for crossbills in the State Forest Nursery (Ames, Iowa), Joe Schaufenbuel and I caught a very brief glimpse of a large hawk that flew from a row of Eastern Red Cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) upon our approach. Although I only saw a long tail with alternating dark and light bands, Joe said that what he had seen of the bird made him believe it was a Northern Goshawk. On November 7, 1981, we returned to the area and, directly under the same row of cedars, we discovered a dead Northern Goshawk. Judging by the condition of the eyes and overall body tissues, the bird had not been dead more than eight hours when we discovered it. Its keel was easily discernible and as a result I felt that the bird may have starved to death. However, the body was heavily infested with external parasites. I turned

the bird over to Jim Dinsmore of Iowa State University. Upon further examination, Dinsmore and I concluded that the Goshawk was probably a second-year male. — JOHN C. ROBINSON, P.O. Box 1015, Ames, Iowa 50010.

Prairie Falcon in Harrison County — On October 10, 1981, Joe Schaufenbuel and I had the opportunity to conduct some observations in southwest Iowa. At 3:50 p.m., we noticed a large raptor in a winter wheat field adjacent to Highway 30. Observations made with a telescope with a zoom lens showed the following features: black axillars, white superciliary stripe, white vertical auricular patch behind eye, narrow black moustache below the eye, and an olive-brown back coloration. From these and other field marks (large size, pointed wings, and long tail), we knew we were looking at a Prairie Falcon. The falcon had a small, dark bird grasped in its talons when it was discovered, and we felt that it was feeding on an European Starling as more than 150 of these birds were in the immediate vicinity.

Although Prairie Falcons are a western bird, as evidenced by thirteen nesting records for Nebraska in 1978 (Bennett, 1980), in recent years they have been reported regularly during migration in Iowa (Kent, 1980; D. Menke, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pers. comm. 1979; Halmi, 1979; and Halmi, 1978). Brown (1971) lists the Prairie Falcon as a casual species usually seen between late August and late February.

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 JOHN C. ROBINSON, P.O. Box 1015, Ames, Iowa 50010

Brant specimen from Iowa — On 2 November 1980, Larry Coney, Kevin Lundegard, and John Kounas were hunting from a blind in the northeast (Iowa) section of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge in Harrison County. Between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. a single strange small goose landed in front of their blind. The goose flew, was shot, and retrieved. When the three checked out of the refuge, the bird was seen by Randy Sease and Maury Muhm, both students at Iowa State University, and several refuge personnel, who collectively identified the bird as an immature Brant (*Branta bernicla*) (see Kent 1981, Kleen 1981). The bird was kept by Kounas of Sloan, Iowa who had it mounted. On 27 July 1981, we saw the bird in Sloan and concurred with the identification (see photo). The bird is about the size of a Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) or a small Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), with a relatively short neck and the short bill typical of geese. The head, neck, and upper breast are black. There is no cheek patch and the neck has only a faint white necklace of feathers around it, eliminating the possibility that it is one of the small races of the Canada Goose. The belly feathers are a canvas color similar to that of the Canada Goose rather than the chocolate brown typical of the western race of the Brant. The tail feathers are worn and the wings have four lines of light-colored feathers extending out them. This combination of characteristics is typical of the immature eastern race of the Brant (see Palmer 1976).

This appears to be the first tangible evidence of the Brant occurring in Iowa. There are several earlier records of the species in Iowa but none supported by a photograph or specimen. Some of these probably refer to misidentified small Canada Geese. The most convincing previous record is one seen for about a month

starting in October 1970 at Ingham Lake, Emmet County (Musgrove and Musgrove 1977). This individual was seen by several Iowa Conservation Commission personnel and probably was correctly identified but no photographs were taken.

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Brant Mount

Sloane, Iowa — July 27, 1981

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 JAMES J. DINSMORE, STEPHEN DINSMORE, and MARK DINSMORE, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, Ia. 50010.

Fifth Record of the King Eider for Iowa — A previously-undescribed specimen of the King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) exists in the collection of the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History and was recently examined by the authors. The specimen (SUI no. 33585), a female or immature, was collected on 8 November 1970, by Mr. Steven Slack, at Lake Odessa, Louisa Co., Iowa, and was brought by him to the museum for identification. It represents the fourth specimen and fifth record of this species for the state. The previous records are:

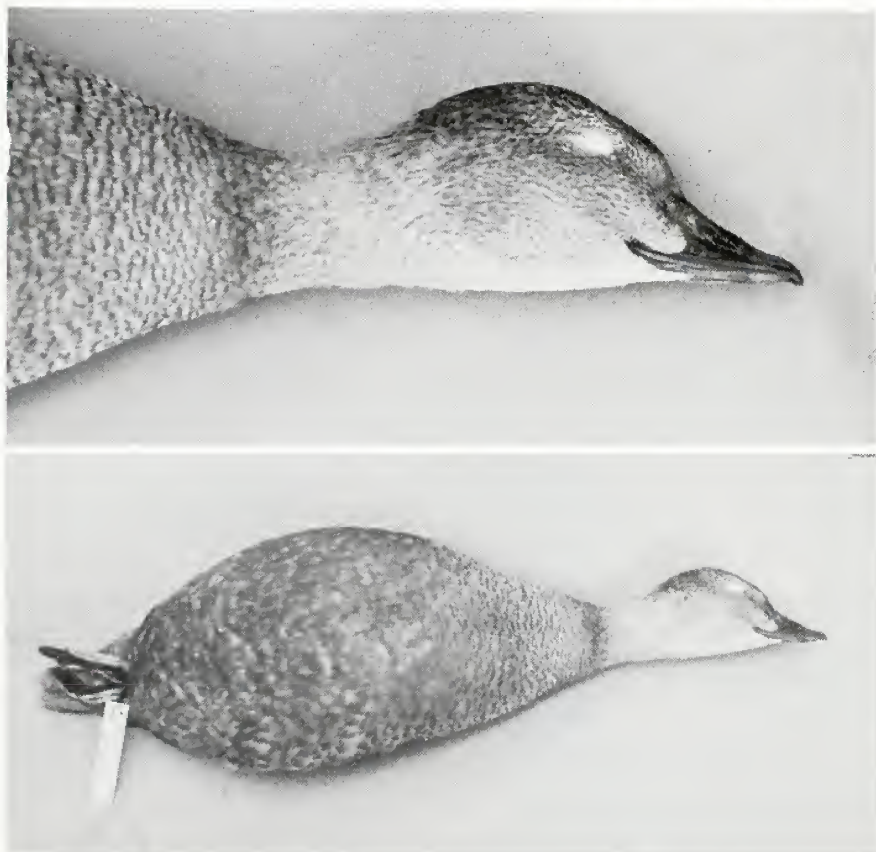
1. An immature male shot on the Mississippi River at Keokuk, 10 November 1894 (Praeger, 1895), specimen no. 25003 in the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History. (There are several later references to this record that differ either as to place or date: Anderson (1907); Praeger (1925); Bent (1925). These are presumably erroneous.)

2. Another immature male, shot on 18 November 1950 on the Mississippi River opposite New Boston, Illinois (Morrissey, 1951). The specimen is in the Putnam Museum, Davenport.

3. A sight record from Bellevue, Jackson Co., Iowa, on 20 December 1964 (IBL 35:24, 1965). (Brown (1971) and Musgrove (1977), apparently in error, list this record for 1954.)

4. An immature shot on Inham Lake near Wallingford, Emmet Co., Iowa, on 8 November 1971 (Petersen, 1972).

In the north-central United States the King Eider is a fairly frequent vagrant. There are about thirty records for the states of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan (Musgrove, 1977; Brown, 1971; DuMont, 1933; Bohlen, et al., 1979; Green and Janssen, 1975; Petersen and Fawks, 1977; American Birds 1973-1980). The records extend from October to March, with a single May record from northern Minnesota, but more than two-thirds of the records are from November and December. Most are from the Great Lakes, the major rivers, or other large bodies of water. The majority of the birds are immatures. There are no records of this species from Missouri, Oklahoma, or South Dakota, and only a single record from Kansas (Easterla and Anderson, 1967; Whitney et al., 1978; Johnston, 1965, Sutton, 1967), suggesting that these birds are arriving from the



Female or immature King Eider. University of Iowa specimen No. 33585. Photo by T. H. Kent.

north and continuing on eastward rather than southward.

The source of the King Eiders seen in the north-central states is not certainly known. King Eiders breed on tundra from the northwest coastal plain of Alaska to the southwest shore of Hudson Bay, throughout the Canadian arctic archipelago, and on the eastern and western coasts of Greenland (Palmer, 1976; Bellrose, 1976). Adults and juveniles differ in their migration timetables: adults migrate in late summer to traditional moulting grounds and move to their wintering areas only in late fall; juveniles do not undergo a moult migration but migrate directly to the wintering areas. Both adults and juveniles apparently linger in the arctic until forced to move south by the freezing of the sea. Birds from the western arctic migrate along the coast and winter off Alaska and the Aleutian islands; birds from the eastern arctic migrate, mostly over water, to western Greenland and then south to the coasts of Canada and the extreme northeastern United States. Neither migration route seems likely to produce vagrancy to the north-central United States. Palmer (1976) speculates that small numbers of birds, lingering late in open leads in the ice, may be forced by the onset of winter to migrate directly south instead of taking the traditional coastal routes. Since juveniles tend to remain further north than adults in the fall, this would explain their more frequent occurrence as vagrants.

We thank Dr. George Schrimper, Curator of the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History, for access to the specimen.

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DR. MICHAEL C. NEWLON, Department of Zoology, and DR. T. H. KENT, Department of Pathology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, 52242.

Second Annual Midwinter Eagle Count, 2 - 20 January 1980, with Target Count Dates 11 & 12, 1980 — This is the 21st Annual Count of the Eagles on the Mississippi River and its tributaries, with some Wildlife Refuges away from the river. This year Carl Becker, Endangered Species Board of the Illinois Department of Conservation, was the state's coordinator. Elton Fawks, Bald Eagle Research, had charge of the Mississippi River counts. The National Wildlife Federation funded his part. Michael Pramstaller of the Raptor Information Center had charge of the overall count.

Eagles found in Illinois and along the bordering Mississippi follows:

Location	Adults	Immatures	Total	Plus Unknown Eagles
Mississippi River	532	194	726	46
Illinois River	314	141	455	5
Kankakee River	34	11	45	(New for count)
River totals	880	346	1226	plus 51
Ill. Wildlife Refuges	33	57	90	plus 6
Misc. from state	18	3	21	
Percentage	931 (70)	406 (30)	1337	plus 57
Additional river totals	54	11	65	
Wisconsin, Minnesota	7	5	12	
Kentucky to Hickman	992	422 (30)	1414	
Percentage	(70)			
Kentucky away from river	34	30	64	
Tennessee from river	144	128	272	
Grand totals	1170	580	1750	plus 57 for 1807
Percentage	(67)	(33)		

Percentages increases away from the Mississippi each year.

1979 totals were 1257 568 1824 plus 41 total 1866

Due to the very limited distribution of Golden Eagles along the Mississippi most of the unknown eagles would be Bald Eagles. On the river above Illinois figures were used that was closest to the target date. This depressed the totals as larger numbers were counted before and after the dates used. All of the figures above were from the dates of 7-13, 1980. The upper river figures used was for a limited portion of the river. - ELTON FAWKS, 510 Island Ave., East Moline, Ill. 61244.

New late nesting records for the Field Sparrow and Mourning Dove in Iowa — A Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) nest containing two eggs was found 22 August 1981 while Christyna Laubach and the author were conducting a nest survey of the Sheeder Prairie Preserve located 8 km west and 1.6 km north of Guthrie Center, Guthrie County, Iowa. The nest was situated approximately 0.75 m above the ground in the crotch of a small American plum (*Prunus americana*) tree near the

northern boundary of the Preserve. Two adult Field Sparrows, chipping emphatically, were observed in very close proximity to the nest following its examination.

The latest documented egg date for the Field Sparrow in Iowa was 30 July prior to this report (Johnsgard, 1979). Crooks and Hendrickson (1953) however reported on a nest in Ames, Story County that was begun on 28 July. The latest egg dates for the species in Illinois and Kansas are 11 August and 10 September respectively (Bent, 1968).

Although spring nests are almost always placed on or near the ground, nests constructed late in the season are usually placed in small shrubs at heights of up to 1 m (Johnsgard, 1979). The Field Sparrow is double brooded and occasionally even triple brooded. The late summer nesting reported here may indeed represent such a third brood.

On a subsequent visit to the Sheeder Prairie Preserve on 13 September a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) nest containing one egg was discovered. The nest was located approximately 2.5 m above the ground in a small box elder (*Acer negundo*) tree along the periphery of an American plum thicket near the eastern border of the Preserve. The nest came to my attention as the incubating adult flushed from the nest at my approach. This was probably the male since females usually incubate at night (Bent, 1932). Upon examination it was evident that the nest had been constructed by a different species, it being much more substantial than the typical frail appearing Mourning Dove nest. Apparently this practice is not uncommon.

Anderson (1907) reported the previous latest egg date for the species in Iowa as 1 September based on a Van Buren County nest. (McClure in *Ecology and Management of the Mourning Dove in Cass Co., Iowa*, Research Bulletin 310, I.S.C., 1943 refers to nests active into October which implies egg dates well into September, ed.). Latest egg dates for other midwestern states are 6 September for North Dakota and 10 September for Kansas (Johnsgard, 1979).

Dove nests are most often constructed in trees at heights of from 1.3 to 6 m, averaging 1.6 and 2.15 m in two North Dakota samples (ibid.). Normally the clutch size is two but on occasion one or three eggs are laid. In the southern portions of its extensive range the Mourning Dove may raise up to four broods annually (ibid.) Seven nests of the species containing eggs or young were discovered on the 10.1 hectare Sheeder Preserve between 31 May and 13 September.

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- RENE LAUBACH, Des Moines Center of Science and Industry, 4500 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50312.

Cooper's Hawk Nesting in Stephens State Forest — While recording Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) gobbling in the early morning hours on 13 April 1980, I was distracted by a loud, staccato, cackling call. When I turned to identify

the caller, I saw two small hawks perched on the edge of an old squirrel nest. They were about the size of a crow, with rounded tails, gray backs, and rusty streaking on the breast. This led me to identify the birds as Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*). I was completely camouflaged, but the birds eventually noticed me and became distressed, so I left the area. A check one week later showed a crown of twigs around the top of the nest, and the adults still in the area. On 17 May, my husband and I returned to find one of the adults incubating. Armed with tree climbers and the camera, we returned again on 8 June and found three downy young and one egg in the pipping stage. On 30 June we banded all four young. A check in July showed all four young in trees around the nest area. During all visits the adults were secretive and rarely seen.

This is the first Cooper's Hawk nest record for Lucas County. Previous nesting records for Cooper's Hawks in Iowa are scarce. Anderson (1907) reported the bird as a common summer resident. Bailey (1918) listed fourteen other counties as having nest records. Nests were also documented in Pammel Woods on the Iowa State Campus in 1939 and 1945 (Polderboer 1939 and Lattin and Hendrickson 1947). A nest was found in Duck Creek Park, Davenport, in 1950-51 (Morrissey, *IBL* 38 p. 31) ed. No other nestings were reported until 1977 and 1979 (Koenig, 1979). Roosa (1977) calls the species threatened in Iowa. After observing the secretive nature of the adult birds, I wonder how many other Cooper's Hawk nests there are in the state that are never found.

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 Roosa, D. M. 1977. *Endangered Iowa Birds*. Iowa Preserves Board, Spec. Rep. No. 4. 25 pp. GAYLAN B. CRIM, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

Chukars in the Quad-Cities — Throughout the 1970s, I received several reports of Chukars at feeding stations and in yards in Davenport and Bettendorf. In 1974 a bird built a nest in a railroad yard in west Davenport but did not succeed in hatching her eggs. Several years ago I received a call to identify a bird in the yard of Richard Knox who lives about four blocks from me just into Bettendorf. The bird was a Chukar and upon learning its identity, Mr. Knox recalled that he bought 100 in Oklahoma in 1970 and released them in his yard (several acres, partly wooded). These birds apparently spread throughout the area and were responsible for the many reports. At a n.w. Davenport resident indicates they have bred successfully the last three summers. One report in the summer of 1981 came from near Blue Grass, nearly fourteen miles from the release point. Having survived for eleven years, they are a part of the Quad-City avifauna and are deserving of a place on the Iowa list of birds. PETER C. PETERSEN, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, 52803.

Hole-Nesting Red-winged Blackbird — While wading Otterville Marsh, Tama County, June 23, 1980, I discovered a nesting oddity of the Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). Usually, this species makes a shaggy, cup-like affair in vegetation, often near water. However, to my surprise, an inventive Red-wing was found to have constructed a cavity nest in a long dead tree stub.

The adult birds resented my intrusion, flying over me and calling, as I investigated the curiosity. The entrance to the nest was a verticle slit about five inches long, and about two inches at the widest, with a depth of about six inches.

The nest was two feet above the water and located about twenty-five feet from shore in three feet of water. The nest was well constructed of grasses and contained three warm eggs. I have never found Red-wings nesting in holes before; and I have not made a literature search to find out just how frequently such a cavity nest is. Regardless, it is remarkable proof of just how flexible the ubiquitous Red-wing's nesting habits are. — JOE SCHAUFENBUEL, St. Lucas.

Mountain Bluebird in Northwest Iowa -- On Saturday morning, April 7, 1979, my nephew Mike Van Dyk, a freshman at Dordt College, and I discovered a Mountain Bluebird in extreme western Sioux County, less than a mile from the South Dakota border. The bird, either a female or a male coming out of winter plumage, allowed a rather close approach, to within approximately 20 feet. Weather and light conditions were excellent. As soon as we saw the blue of the bird we realized that we were not looking at an Eastern Bluebird. The blue on the lower back and tail was lighter and of a different, more cerulean quality, quite unlike the intense blue of the Eastern Bluebird. The underparts were clear grayish, with no hint of rust or red anywhere. The bird further distinguished itself by the absence of the hunched posture so typical of the other bluebirds. Mike and I wrote a complete documentation on the spot; we were allowed ample time to do so, as the bird was in no hurry moving from fence post to fence post. I am personally quite familiar with the Mountain Bluebird, having observed it on numerous occasions in Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico.

We sighted the bird in an area where other western species occur not uncommonly. Lark Buntings, for example, can be found in the same location at times. Say's Phoebe has nested in a similar situation to the south of this area (western Plymouth Co. -- cf. September, 1977, issue of IBL). Kim Eckert has seen the Mountain Bluebird just to the north, in Rock Co., southwestern Minnesota (cf. *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota*, p. 75). In February, 1979, a Townsend's Solitaire was present at Sheldon, some 20 miles to the east. DR. JOHN VAN DYK, 736 E. 1st Street, Sioux Center, 51250

Book Reviews

Beyond the Bird Feeder — John V. Dennis — Alfred A. Knopf, N. Y. — 201 p., many line drawings — 1981 — \$13.95.

Written as a supplement to *A Complete Guide to Bird Feeding*, I.B.L. 45:102, Dennis covers related activity of birds. Some of the topics are water, anting, predators, confrontations, habitat, food plants, houses, and migration. The author's casual style will increase appeal of this book for the feeder watcher. If you found the author's previous book useful, this one will be worth checking out. It is well done, and should prove useful if you have a strong interest in feeders. ed.

The "Mid-South Bird Notes" of Ben B. Coffey, Jr. — J. A. Jackson, ed. — Miss. Ornith. Society, available from Petersen Book Co., Box 966, Davenport, Ia. — 127 p. — 1981 — paperbound, \$10.00.

There has long been a "void" in the state ornithological literature for Mississippi. From 1952-1956, Ben Coffey tried to fill this void by publishing five volumes of notes for the Memphis, Tenn. area, and neighboring areas in Arkansas and Mississippi, covering a 150 mile radius circle from Memphis. The notes vary from article treatment of special sightings to banding reports, but most are in the "American Birds" style of regional reports. Indices are included for all states mentioned to facilitate use of the data. ed.

North American Game Birds and Mammals — A. Starker Leopold, Ralph J. Gutierrez and Michael T. Bronson — Charles Scribner's Sons, N.Y. — 196 p., many

maps and line drawings — 1981 — \$19.95.

Covering 135 game species, just over half birds, this book will appeal particularly to wildlife biologists. For each species a summary of natural history aspects, range, ecological status and elements of economic significance are presented. These species accounts are very brief so this is not a detailed reference book. It would be of little practical use for birders, but would make a nice book for a high school, college, or public library. ed.

Dicotomus Key to the Shorebirds of North America — Richard Mellon — Published by the author, Box 63, Morrisville, Pa. — 24 p. — 1981 — \$2.95.

This little booklet, which will fit inside the cover of a field guide, covers 90 species and seems to be quite accurate. It includes special keys for rare and accidental species as well as tips for finding and identifying rare species. Distinction is usually made for juvenile plumages, a weak point in most field guides. Serious birders should look this one over, it will prove helpful for a difficult group. ed.

A Natural Collection — Steve C. Wilson and Karen C. Hayden — Entheos, Bainbridge Island, Wash., available from National Audubon Society, 950 3rd Ave., N. Y. — 218 p., 200 color plates — 1981 — paperbound, \$10.00.

This book features some great photographs and focuses on the Texas coast, especially Aransas N.W.R. and Padre Island National Seashore. It was underwritten by Conoco which has produced petroleum on Aransas since 1947. In addition to presenting a beautiful portrait of this area the book also shows how a sincere corporate commitment can result in safe resource utilization. ed.

The Audubon Society Handbook for Birders -- Stephen W. Kress -- Chas. Scribner's Sons, N.Y. -- 322 p., 172 black-and-white illus. -- 1981 -- \$17.95.

We have another book aimed at going beyond the field guides and biology texts. The topics covered include field trip techniques, binoculars, scopes, observing birds, photographing and recording birds, educational programs, research programs, welcoming amateurs, periodicals, organizations, bird-watcher's library, and sources for birding items. The coverage is good but not entirely complete. One of my bird classes is listed, another omitted. Some fine state books, the Kellers' Indiana book and South Dakota O.U.'s recent titles being prime examples, are omitted. Overall it is a book which should prove useful to most birders. ed.

The Birds of Saudi Arabia — A Check-list — Michael C. Jennings — published by the author — 112 p., 4 line drawings, 121 maps — 1981 — available in the U.S. from Petersen Book Co., Davenport — paperbound — \$15.00.

This privately published book provides an up to date summary of the range, status, and period of occurrence of the birds of Saudi Arabia. The breeding range of 117 species is mapped. Included is a full bibliography with over 140 references, and a comprehensive gazetteer. The author includes 413 species and rejects another 42 with full details. This book provides a good update and fills a gap in the literature for this part of the world. ed.

A Duckling is Born — Hans-Heinrich Isenhardt and Othmar Baumli — G. P. Putnam's Sons, N.Y. — 40 p., 45 color photographs — 1981 — \$9.95.

This very well produced children's book includes some fine photographs of the development of the embryo. Aimed at children aged 6-9, the text combines with the photographs to tell the story in a fine fashion. ed.

Wilderness Expeditions — Heinz Sielmann-Franklin Watts, Inc., N.Y. — 416 p., over 500 color photographs — 1981 — \$29.95.

This beautiful coffee-table book transports the arm chair traveler to some of the choicest remaining wilderness in the world. Twenty areas on six continents are covered with some great pictorial sequences included. The text is limited, but lays

groundwork for better understanding of the photographs. Judging by the four areas I have visited the combination gives a good picture of the locality. ed.

World of Budgerigars — Cyril H. Rogers — Siaga Publishing, Surry, England — 133 p., 16 color and 36 b. & w. plates — 1981 — L9.50, about \$19.00.

This is basically an avicultural book, but it includes a chapter on the discovery of the species in the wild and five on the mutations which were developed in captivity. The species is one which is still common in its native habitat and usually caged birds in shops have been bred in captivity. ed.

Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Arizona — Gale Monson & Allan Phillips — Univ. of Arizona Press — 240 pp., 6 maps — 1981 — paperbound, \$5.95.

This new annotated checklist is printed in a very convenient, field guide-sized format. A series of maps locate the geographical areas of the state, Indian reservations, some national parks, physical features, and cities. The 475 species accounts give status with specific date and location data for rare birds. An index and appendix regarding Arizona races of the Red Crossbill round out a well done state update. ed.

The Plovers, Sandpipers, and Snipes of the World — Paul A. Johnsgard — Univ. of Nebraska Press, Lincoln — 510 p., 50 color, and 80 b. & w. plates, 135 maps — 1981 — \$45.00.

Dr. Johnsgard continues his production of fine books summarizing large groups of birds. Planned as a companion to the earlier volume on waterfowl this book treats 165 species. For each species, the author presents other names, subspecies, ranges (with maps of breeding areas), measurements, weights, description, habitats, foods, social behavior, reproductive biology, status, relationships, and references. Most of the color, and some of the black and white plates are photographic. Keys are included for families, subfamilies, and tribes. A series of black and white drawings of heads is included as an aid to identification. A very complete bibliography of sources rounds out the book. This is a fine book and should be in any complete ornithological library. ed.

Jacob and Owl — Ada & Frank Graham — Coward, McCaunt Geoghegan, N.Y. — 64 p., 25 b. & w. photographs — 1981 — \$9.95.

This nicely produced children's book tells of a boy and the injured Barred Owl he cares for and nurses back to health. It is illustrated by some fine, soft photographs including some nice superimposed images. Any youngster about ten would enjoy the story. ed.

Birds - Their Latin Names Explained — A. F. Gotch — Blandford Press, Poole, Dorset, U. K. — 348 p. — 1981 — \$22.50.

Several books of this type have been written for the U.S., but this one is world-wide in scope. It covers about 1850 species or 20 percent of the birds of the world. Common and very rare birds are included with some birds of very limited distribution covered also. The book will be good for reference libraries. ed.

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Peter C. Petersen, Editor

NOTICE

Smith's Longspur Survey

A number of Iowa birders have expressed interest in participating in a survey for Smith's Longspur as suggested earlier (IBL 51:53-55). This species, which should migrate through Iowa, has only been recorded three times in the last 50 years. However, it may have been overlooked because of its short migration interval and its habitat preference. It prefers short grassy fields (pastures, airports) and does not come to roadsides like the Lapland Longspur. Moist fields are preferred over dry fields. We would like to enlist as many volunteers as possible to try to find Smith's Longspur during the first two weeks of April 1982 especially the weekends of April 3, 4 and 10, 11. The latter weekend should be the peak time for their migration. The following procedures are suggested:

- (1) Locate as many suitable fields in your area as possible.
- (2) Obtain permission from the owners of the fields and find out the size of the field(s) in acres.
- (3) Walk the field back and forth at 20 yard intervals in an attempt to flush longspurs.
- (4) Record the following data for each area covered:
 - (a) Location — by distances from nearest town, township, and county.
 - (b) Size of area covered (acres).
 - (c) Characteristics of field — grass heights, type of field, terrain, moistness.
 - (d) List of species and numbers of each seen within or directly over the field, i.e. not in surrounding area.
 - (e) Date and time of start and finish of the survey of the field.
 - (f) Names of all participants and address of recorder.
 - (g) Documentation of any Smith's Longspurs seen.
- (5) Survey as many fields as possible and send a separate sheet of results for each area covered to T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, Ia. 52240.

This study should help answer the question of whether we have been missing Smith's Longspur in Iowa. As a by-product, we will gather some important data on the migration of grassland species in Iowa in early April.

SPECIAL NOTE

The IOWA BIRDLINE is in operation. The number is (319)-622-3353. Our present intent is to have a new tape on line each Wednesday night-Thursday morning. Schedule changes will be announced as part of the message.

The phone line will be located in Amana. Rick Hollis will be the editor, with Carl Bendorf providing primary back up.

When you call this number you will hear a 2-3 minute-message. After the message, you may leave information for the editor to include on the next tape.

The message will start with the date it was recorded and the date of the next scheduled tape change. Highlights of the tape will follow. After that, the features will be heard: Rare Birds or Unusual Concentrations (with detailed directions for locating them if appropriate), Regular Seasonal Movements (arrival of swans in the NE, arrival of geese in Western Iowa, etc.), Scheduled Birding Events and other messages of interest.

When you leave messages, please be as specific as possible. Provide detailed directions, starting from places on the Iowa highway map. Please leave your name and phone number in case we wish to contact you. If you are not willing to have other interested birders contact you about your finding, please let us know. It may be helpful to organize your messages to us as shown in this sample message.

NAME: Rick Hollis; TOWN: Iowa City; PHONE: (319) - 338-4834; SPECIES: N. Goshawk; DATE, TIME SEEN: 15 November, 4:30 P.M.

HOW TO FIND THE GENERAL LOCATION: From I-80 turn S on Rt 1. Drive about 1 mile, and turn left on Conklin Lane. (This is across the road from a shopping center.) Drive until you enter the park and come to a parking lot.

SPECIFIC LOCATION: From the parking lot a trail enters the woods to the NE. The trail is not easy to see until you are at the woods edge, so walk to the woods and then find the trail. It goes down a steep hill to a picnic table. From the picnic table you should turn left and take the trail that crosses a small foot-bridge to the N. This trail turns Easterly and parallels a fence. The Goshawk was seen about 100 yds. N (i.e. across) the fence. IF THE BIRD IS DIFFICULT TO RECOGNIZE, LIST FEATURES:

Please give us information to put on the line. The success of the Birdline is absolutely dependent on observers sharing their observations by calling them into the Birdline. Also, share with us your suggestions for improving the Birdline.

SPECIAL REQUEST

The Department of Special Collections of the Iowa State University Library would like to preserve the records of the accomplishments and work of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. Because the Union has not had a central office or an executive secretary, its records and files have been scattered throughout the state. It is possible that tucked away in an attic, basement, garage or office are such materials. If anyone does have any or know where they may be located, please contact Stanley Yates, Department of Special Collections, Iowa State University Library, Ames, Iowa 50011 phone (515) 294-6672.

Here are some of the basic categories of files and records which should be preserved for future research: correspondence of officers; summaries of financial resources; official publications except "Iowa Bird Life"; membership lists; minutes and reports of annual meetings and committees; testimony at legislative and congressional hearings; speeches and addresses; articles by or about the Union; newspaper clippings; photographs; and anything else by or about the Union.